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17 SEP 70 CITE SANTIAGO

18 SEP

IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR

SECTION 1 OF 2

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

TO: HENRY KISSINGER FROM: AMB KORRY

1. I RECKON THAT IF SOMETHING IS TO HAPPEN TO STOP THE
ALLIENDE PRESIDENCY, IT WILL OCCUR THIS WEEKEND OR MONDAY.

2. WHAT I BELIEVE COULD HAPPEN, STARTING IN A FEW HOURS,
IS THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

A. A PUBLIC DECLARATION OVER ALL MEDIA FROM THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND/OR THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY INFORMING
THE COUNTRY THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IS DESPERATE.

B. THE RESIGNATION OF THE TWO MINISTERS TONIGHT OR
TOMORROW, FOLLOWED BY THE RESIGNATION OF OTHER MINISTERS.

C. THE APPOINTMENT OF MILITARY TO FILL THE PORT-
FOLIOS OF INTERIOR, DEFENSE, HEALTH AND LABOR. (THE TWO
ECONOMIC SLOTS ARE QUESTION MARKS BECAUSE THE MILITARY
CONSIDERS THESE SECTORS BEYOND THEIR COMPETENCE BUT I
TRUST THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO USE ADVISORS.)

D. THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT FREI AND HIS
APPOINTMENT, AS THE CONSTITUTION PERMITS, OF AN INTERIM

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PRESIDENT WHO WOULD BE ONE OF THE ARMED FORCES CINCS.

E. A DECLARATION BY THE JUNTA THAT IT WISHES TO ASSURE THE COUNTRY A DEMOCRATIC CHOICE OF ITS SYSTEM AND OF ITS NEXT PRESIDENT.

3. THERE ARE SEVERAL WEAK POINTS IN THIS SCRIPT, ALL NAMED FREI. HE HAD MANEUVERED SKILLFULLY TO PRODUCE THE CRISIS, BUT, AS IS HIS HABIT, ALWAYS PERMITTING OTHERS TO PUSH THE PROCESS STEP BY STEP FOR HIM. IF HE WERE NOT TO PERMIT THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE TWO MINISTERS, IF HE WERE NOT TO RESIGN AS A CONSEQUENCE, IF HE WERE NOT TO PERSUADE THE ARMY CINC GENERAL SCHNEIDER, THE MOST CONSTITUTIONALIST OF ALL THE MILITARY, TO GO ALONG WITH THIS SCHEME, IT COULD BECOME UNSTUCK. AND IF THE MILITARY DOES NOT ACT WITH SPEED AND SKILL, QUALITIES WITH WHICH THEY ARE NOT ORDINARILY ENDOWED, THE COUP COULD BECOME A VERY SLOPPY AND BLOODY MESS.

4. THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY TRANSFORMED BY THE STATEMENT LAST NIGHT OF RETIRED GENERAL VIAUX. WHILE THE PUBLIC CONSIDERS THE DECLARATION TO BE TRIVIAL AND EGOCENTRIC, THE ARMY, THE ARMED FORCES AND

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FREI BELIEVE IT TO BE OF TRANSCENDENTAL SIGNIFICANCE.

VIAUX IS CONSIDERED BY THE MILITARY, WITH GOOD REASON, TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH THE YOUNGER OFFICERS AND THE NON-COMS. THE MEN WHO REALLY CONTROL THE TROOPS. AS PRESIDENT FREI SAID TO A TRUSTED SOURCE TODAY, THE VIAUX STATEMENT "SERVED TO BRING THE ARMY IN LINE, UNIFYING IT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DEMONSTRATING THAT CHILEAN GENERALS ARE NOT FOR SALE." (THE LATTER IS A REFERENCE TO VIAUX' REBUFF OF ALLENDE.)

3. BECAUSE MY INTERPRETATION OF VIAUX' INFLUENCE LINED UP WITH FREI'S, I PERSUADED MINDEFENSE OSSA MONDAY NIGHT TO CEASE TRYING TO BLOCK THE VIAUX STATEMENT ON WHICH I HAD GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO RAUL SAEZ LAST WEEKEND. INCIDENTALLY, FOR THE RECORD, _____ HAS PERFORMED A VERY VALUABLE SERVICE FOR ME IN HELPING TO ELICIT THIS MESSAGE FROM VIAUX.

6. EQUALLY STRONGLY WITH OSSA--AND THAT MEANS FREI-- I PUSHED FOR THE MINFINANCE STATEMENT THAT I HOPE IS COMING SHORTLY. SINCE FREI INSISTED ON A MORAL JUSTIFICATION FOR

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ANY ACTION, I COULD THINK OF ONLY THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AS PROVIDING IT. THE MINFINANCE AND THE MINECONOMY ARE DETERMINED TO RESIGN; THEY ARE SO PERSUADED BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PROVOKE THE CRISIS AND PUSH THE MILITARY AND FREI TO ACTION. THEY ARE BOTH GOOD FRIENDS; INDEED THEY ARE THE ONLY TWO MINISTERS IN WHOM I HAVE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE AND WITH WHOM I HAVE MAINTAINED THE MOST SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS. BUT I HAVE STAYED TOTALLY CLEAR OF THEM, PREFERRING TO DEAL WITH THE MINIMAL CONTACTS, IN THIS CASE, OSSA AND SAEZ. THE LATTER EXERCISES CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH BOTH.

7. MOST OF CHILE BEGAN AT NOON TODAY THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE HOLIDAYS. THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN GOOSE-STEPPING THROUGH THEIR PARADE DRILLS FOR DAYS IN PREPARATION FOR THE BIG PARADE I WILL ATTEND SATURDAY. TOMORROW MORNING THERE IS THE TE DEUM IN THE CATHEDRAL WITH ALL OF US DIPLOMATS IN OUR MONKEY SUITS. THE MASS OF THE COUNTRY IS PREPARED TO DRINK ITSELF INTO A STUPOR, TO SPEND ITS EXTRA WAGES AND TO HAVE A RESPIRE FROM THE INTENSIVE POLITICAL TALK IN THIS COUNTRY THAT SHOULD BE RECHRISTENED BLAHBLANDIA. BUT THE

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FORDES THAT SANTIAGO GARRISON COMMANDER GEN. VALENZUELA INFORMED ME TWO WEEKS AGO SUNDAY WOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN SANTIAGO ARE HERE IN LESS BUT SUFFICIENT NUMBERS AND FOR THE MOMENT THE ARMY IS MORE OR LESS UNITED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME.

8. FREI BELIEVES THAT THE COMBINATION OF THE VIAUX AND THE ECONOMIC STATEMENTS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVOKE THE ARMY TAKEOVER. FREI THIS MORNING COMPARED THE ARMED FORCES TO A STRETCHED RUBBER BAND THAT WAS READY TO SNAP. HE SAID THEY WERE NOW FIGHTING "AS A CASTLE."

9. HOWEVER, FREI DID NOT SAY HE WOULD SPECIFICALLY GIVE THE APPROVAL TO THE ARMY TAKEOVER. HE DID NOT SAY HE WOULD CONVINCE SCHNEIDER. HE DID NOT SAY HE WOULD RESIGN. AND THESE LACUNAE WORRY ME. HE MAY BE ASSUMING THAT HE AS STRUCTURED THE SITUATION TO MOVE ITSELF, HIS FAVORITE METHOD OF POLITICAL ACTION. HIS MAY BE A VERY LARGE ASSUMPTION. HE WAS MUCH MORE FINAL IN HIS JUDGEMENT ABOUT THE FUTURE IF THE ARMED FORCES DID NOT MOVE. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE NOT HOPE IN THE RUBE GOLDBERG POLITICAL CONTRAPTION. HE SAID

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THAT HE COULD NOT WIN MORE THAN 25 PER CENT OF HIS OWN PARTY FOR
THE POLITICAL FORMULA ROUTE AND THAT HE HAD "DISCARDED" IT.

IT WAS THE ARMY OR NOTHING.

10. MY MOMENT OF DECISION IS AT HAND. I MUST DECIDE
WHAT IF ANYTHING I MUST DO TO MAKE FREI'S DECISIONS AGAIN FOR
HIM; I DID IT IN THE CASE OF THE ANACONDA NEGOTIATIONS LAST
YEAR BUT THAT WAS KINDER-GARTEN EXERCISE IN COMPARISON TO
THIS OLYMPIC GYMNASTIC. I SEEK NO ADVICE BECAUSE WE HAVE
DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO TOUCH ALL BASES: GEN. VALENZUELA
KNOWS VERY CLEARLY MY VIEWS; THE MINISTERS OF
ECONOMY AND FINANCE ARE FULLY AWARE OF MY SENTIMENTS; FREI
HAS BEEN TOLD; AND THEY ALL ARE INFORMED AS TO HOW THEY
MUST PROCEED AGAINST THOSE WHO THREATEN TO PLUNG THE COUNTRY
INTO CIVIL WAR. I HAVE EXCELLENT SUPPORT FOR THOSE HERE
WHO NEED TO KNOW.

11. TALLY HO.